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PREPOSTEROUSLY, *adv.* [from *preposterous*.] In a wrong situation; absurdly.
Those things do best please me,
That befall *preposterously*. *Shaksp. Midf. Night's Dream.*
Upon this supposition, one animal would have its lungs,
where another hath its liver, and all the other members *pre-*
posterously placed; there could not be a like configuration of
parts in any two individuals. *Bentley's Sermons.*
PREPOSTEROUNESS, *n. f.* [from *preposterous*.] Absurdity;
wrong order or method.
PREPOTENCY, *n. f.* [*præpotentia*, Lat.] Superior power;
predominance.
If there were a determinate *prepotency* in the right, and
such as ariseth from a constant root in nature, we might ex-
pect the same in other animals. *Brown.*
PREPUCE, *n. f.* [*prepuce*, Fr. *præputium*, Lat.] That which
covers the glans; foreskin.
The *prepuce* was much inflamed and swelled. *Wifeman.*
TO PRE-REQUIRE, *v. a.* [*præ* and *require*.] To demand pre-
viously.
Some primary literal signification is *pre-required* to that other
of figurative. *Hammend.*
PRE-REQUISITE, *adj.* [*præ* and *requisite*.] Something previously
necessary.
The conformation of parts is necessary, not only unto the
pre-requisite and previous conditions of birth, but also unto the
parturition. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
Before the existence of compounded body, there must be a
pre-existence of active principles, necessarily *pre-requisite* to
the mixing thereof of particles of bodies. *Hale.*
PREROGATIVE, *n. f.* [*prærogative*, Fr. *prærogative*, low Lat.]
An exclusive or peculiar privilege.
My daughters and the fair Parthenia might far better put
in their claim for that *prærogative*. *Sidney.*
Our *prærogative*
Calls not your counsels, but our natural goodness
Imparts this. *Shaksp.*
How could communities,
The primogeniture, and due of birth,
Prærogative of age, sceptres, and crowns,
But by degree, stand in authentick place? *Shaksp.*
The great Caliph hath an old *prærogative* in the choice and
confirmation of the kings of Assyria. *Knolles.*
They are the best laws, by which the king hath the justest
prærogative, and the people the best liberty. *Bacon.*
Had any of these second causes despoiled God of his *præ-*
rogative, or had God himself constrained the mind and will
of man to impious acts by any celestial inforcements? *Raleigh.*
They obtained another royal *prærogative* and power, to
make war and peace at their pleasure. *Drives.*
The house of commons to these their *prærogatives* over the
lords, sent an order to the lieutenant of the tower, that he
should cause him to be executed that very day. *Clarendon.*
For freedom still maintain'd alive,
Freedom an English subjects' sole *prærogative*,
Accept our pious praise. *Dryden.*
All with the dire *prærogative* to kill,
Ev'n they wou'd have the pow'r, who want the will. *Dryden.*
It seems to be the *prærogative* of human understanding,
when it has distinguished any ideas, so as to perceive them to
be different, to consider in what circumstances they are ca-
pable to be compared. *Locke.*
I will not consider only the *prærogatives* of man above other
animals, but the endowments which nature hath conferred on
his body in common with them. *Ray on the Creation.*
PREROGATIVED, *adj.* [from *prærogative*.] Having an exclu-
sive privilege; having *prærogative*.
'Tis the plague of great ones,
Prærogativ'd are they less than the bale; *Shaksp.*
'Tis destiny unshunnable.
PRES, *Pres*, *pres*, seem to be derived from the Saxon, *pre*, *pre*, a
prefix; it being usual in after times to drop the letter *s* in like
cases. *Gilson's Camden.*
PRESAGE, *n. f.* [*præfage*, Fr. *præfagium*, Lat.] Prognostick;
pretension of futurity.
Joy and shout *præfage* of victory. *Milton.*
Dreams have generally been considered by authors only as
revelations of what has already happened, or as *præfages* of
what is to happen. *Addison.*
TO PRESAGE, *v. a.* [*præfage*, Fr. *præfagis*, Latin.]
1. To forebode; to foreknow; to foretell; to prophesy.
Henry's late *præfaging* prophecy
Did glad my heart with hope. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
What pow'r of mind
Foreseeing, or *præfaging* from the depth
Of knowledge past or present, could have fear'd
How such united force of gods, how such
As stood like these, could ever know repulse. *Milton.*
This contagion might have been *præfaged* upon considera-
tion of its precursors. *Harvey on Consumptions.*
With'd freedom, I *præfage* you soon will find,
If heav'n be just, and if to virtue kind. *Dryden.*

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2. Sometimes with *of* before the thing foretold.
That by certain signs we may *præfage*
Of heats and rains, and wind's impetuous rage,
The sov'reign of the heav'n's has let on high
The moon to mark the changes of the sky. *Dryden.*
2. To foretoken; to foreshow.
If I may trust the flattering ruth of sleep,
My dreams *præfage* some joyful news at hand. *Shaksp.*
Dreams advise some great good *præfaging*. *Milton.*
That cloud, that hangs upon thy brow, *præfages*
A greater storm than all the Turkish power
Can throw upon us. *Denham's Sophy.*
When others fell, this standing did *præfage*
The crown thou'd triumph over pop'lar rage. *Waller.*
PRESA'GEMENT, *n. f.* [from *præfage*.]
1. Forebodement; pretension.
I have spent much enquiry, whether he had any ominous
præfagement before his end. *Watson.*
2. Foretoken.
The falling of salt is an authentick *præfagement* of ill luck,
from whence notwithstanding nothing can be naturally
feared. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
PRESBYTER, *n. f.* [*presbyter*, Lat. *πρεσβύτερος*.]
1. A priest.
Presbyters absent through infirmity from their churches,
might be said to preach by those deputies who in their stead
did but read homilies. *Hooker, b. v. f. 20.*
2. A presbyterian.
And *presbyters* have their jackpuddings too. *Butler.*
PRESBYTERIAN, *adj.* [*presbytericus*.] Consisting of elders;
a term for a modern form of ecclesiastical government.
Chiefly was urged the abolition of episcopal, and the estab-
lishing of *presbyterian* government. *King Charles.*
PRESBYTERIAN, *n. f.* [from *presbyter*.] An abettor of presby-
tery or calvinistical discipline.
One of the more rigid *presbyterians*. *Swift.*
PRESBYTERY, *n. f.* [from *presbyter*.] Body of elders, whether
priests or laymen.
Those which stood for the *presbytery*, thought their cause
had more sympathy with the discipline of Scotland than the
hierarchy of England. *Bacon.*
Flea-bitten synod, an assembly brew'd
Of clerks and elders ana, like the rude
Chaos of *presbytry*, where laymen guide
With the tame woolpack clergy by their side. *Cleveland.*
PRESBYTER, *n. f.* [*presbyter*, Fr. *presbyter*.] Foreknow-
ledge; knowledge of future things.
They tax our policy, and call it cowardice,
Foretell our *prescience*, and esteem no act
But that of hand. *Shaksp. Troilus and Cressida.*
Prescience or foreknowledge, considered in order and nature,
if we may speak of God after the manner of men, goeth be-
fore providence; for God foreknew all things before he had
created them, or before they had being to be cared for; and
prescience is no other than an infallible foreknowledge. *Rail.*
If certain *prescience* of uncertain events imply a contra-
diction, it seems it may be struck out of the omniscience of
God, and leave no blemish behind. *Mare.*
Of things of the most accidental and mutable nature, God's
prescience is certain. *Saunders.*
Freedom was first bestow'd on human race,
And *prescience* only held the second place. *Dryden.*
PRESIDENT, *adj.* [*presciens*, Lat.] Foreknowing; pro-
phetic.
Henry, upon the deliberation concerning the marriage of
his eldest daughter into Scotland, had shew'd himself sensible
and almost *prescient* of this event. *Bacon.*
Who taught the nations of the field and wood?
Prescient, the tides or tempests to withstand. *Pope.*
PRESIDENT, *adj.* [*presciens*, Lat.] Having foreknowledge.
Thrice happy thou, dear partner of my bed,
Whole holy soul the stroke of fortune fled;
Prescient of ill, and leaving me behind,
To drink the dregs of life. *Dryden's Æneis.*
TO PRESCIND, *v. a.* [*prescindere*, Lat.] To cut off; to ab-
stract.
A bare act of obliquity does not only *prescind* from, but
positively deny such a special dependence. *Norris.*
PRESIDENT, *adj.* [*presciens*, Lat.] Abstracting.
We may, for one single act, abstract from a reward, which
nobody, who knows the *prescient* faculties of the soul, can
deny. *Chene's Philosophical Principles.*
TO PRESCRIBE, *v. a.* [*prescribere*, Lat.]
1. To set down authoritatively; to order; to direct.
Doth the strength of some negative arguments prove this
kind of negative argument strong, by force whereof all things
are denied, which scripture affirmeth not, or all things, which
scripture *prescribeth* not, condemned. *Hooker.*
To the blanc moon her office they *prescrib'd*. *Milton.*
There's joy, when to wild will you laws *prescribe*,
When you bid fortune carry back her bribe. *Dryden.*
When parents loves are order'd by a son,
Let streams *prescribe* their fountains where to run. *Dryden.*
2. To direct

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2. To direct medically.
The end of satire is the amendment of vices by correction;
and he who writes honestly is no more an enemy to the of-
fender, than the physician to the patient, when he *prescribes*
harsh remedies. *Dryden.*
The extremest ways they first ordain,
Prescribing such intolerable pain,
As none but Casar could sustain. *Dryden.*
By a short account of the pressing obligations which lie on
the magistrate, I shall not so much *prescribe* directions for the
future, as praise what is past. *Atterbury.*
Should any man argue, that a physician understands his
own art best; and therefore, although he should *prescribe* poison
to all his patients, he cannot be justly punished, but is an-
swerable only to God. *Swift.*
TO PRESCRIBE, *v. n.*
1. To influence by long custom.
A reserve of puerility we have not shaken off from school,
where being feasted with minor sentences, they *prescribe*
upon our riper years, and never are worn out but with our
memories. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
2. To influence arbitrarily.
The assuming an authority of dictating to others, and a
forwardness to *prescribe* to their opinions; is a constant con-
comitant of this bias of our judgments. *Locke.*
3. [*Prescribere*, Fr.] To form a custom which has the force of law.
That obligation upon the lands did not *prescribe* or come
into disuse, but by fifty consecutive years of exemption. *Abb.*
4. To write medical directions and forms of medicine.
Modern 'photeccaries, taught the art
By doctor's bills to play the doctor's part,
Bold in the practice of mistaken rules,
Prescribe, apply, and call their masters fools. *Pope.*
PRESCRIPT, *adj.* [*prescriptus*, Lat.] Directed; accurately
laid down in a precept.
Those very laws lo added, they themselves do not judge
unlawful; as they plainly confess both in matter of *prescript*
attire, and of rites appertaining to burial. *Hooker.*
PRESCRIPT, *n. f.* [*prescriptum*, Lat.] Direction; precept;
model prescribed.
By his *prescript*, a sanctuary is fram'd
Of cedar, overlaid with gold. *Milton.*
PRESCRIPTION, *n. f.* [*prescription*, Fr. *prescriptio*, Lat. from
prescribo, Lat.]
1. Rules produced and authorized by long custom; custom con-
tinued till it has the force of law.
You tell a pedigree
Of threecore and two years, a silly time
To make *prescription* for a kingdom's worth. *Shaksp.*
Use such as have prevailed before in things you have em-
ployed them; for that breeds confidence, and they will strive
to maintain their *prescription*. *Bacon's Essays.*
It will be found a work of no small difficulty, to dispossess
a vice from that heart, where long possession begins to plead
prescription. *Saunders's Sermons.*
Our poet bade us hope this grace to find,
To whom by long *prescription* you are kind. *Dryden.*
The Lucrèce plead *prescriptions*, for hunting in one of the
duke's forests, that lies upon their frontiers. *Addison.*
2. Medical receipt.
My father left me some *prescriptions*
Of rare and prov'd effects; such as his reading
And manifest experience had collected
For general sov'reignty. *Shaksp.*
Approving of my obstinacy against all common *prescrip-*
tions, he asked me, whether I had never heard the Indian
way of curing the gout by moxa. *Temple.*
PRESENCE, *n. f.* [*presencia*, Fr.] Priority of place in sitting.
The shells, though rude in their other fashions, may, for
their discreet judgment in precedence and *presence*, read a
lesson to our civil gentry. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
PRESENCE, *n. f.* [*presencia*, Fr. *presencia*, Lat.]
1. State of being present; contrary to absence.
To-night we hold a solemn supper,
And I'll request your *presence*. *Shaksp.*
The *presence* of a king engenders love
Amongst his subjects and his loyal friends,
As it disanimates his enemies. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
2. Approach face to face to a great personage.
The shepherd Dorus answered with such a trembling voice
and abashed countenance, and oftentimes so far from the
matter, that it was some sport to the young ladies, thinking
it want of education, which made him so discountenanced
with unwonted *presence*. *Sidney, b. i.*
Which once they knew authority did bear!
3. State of being in the view of a superior.
Thou know'st the law of arms is such,
That, who draws a sword in th' *presence* 't's death. *Sha.*
I know not by what power I am made bold,
In such a *presence* here, to plead my thoughts.
Widow thy sister, and with her did'st play
In *presence* of th' Almighty. *Milton.*
Perhaps I have not so well consulted the repute of my in-

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tellectuals, in bringing their imperfections into such discern-
ing *presences*. *Glansvill's Seep.*
Since clinging cares and trains of inbred fears,
Not aw'd by arms, but in the *presence* bold,
Without respect to purple or to gold. *Dryden.*
4. A number assembled before a great person.
Look I to pale.
—Ay; and no man in the *presence*.
But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks. *Shaksp.*
Odmar, of all this *presence* does contain,
Give her your wreath whom you esteem most fair. *Dryden.*
5. Port; air; mien; demeanour.
Virtue is best in a body that is comely, and that hath ra-
ther dignity of *presence*, than beauty of aspect. *Bacon.*
A graceful *presence* bespeaks acceptance, gives a force to
language, and helps to convince by look and posture. *Calder.*
How great his *presence*, how erect his look,
How ev'ry grace, how all his virtuous mother
Shines in his face, and charms me from his eyes. *Smith.*
6. Room in which a prince shows himself to his court.
By them they pass, all gazing on them round,
And to the *presence* mount, whole glorious view
Their frail amazed senses did confound. *Fairy Queen.*
An't please your grace, the two great cardinals
Wait in the *presence*. *Shaksp. Henry VIII.*
The lady Anne of Bretagne, passing through the *presence*
in the court of France, and spying Chantier, a famous poet,
leaning upon his elbow fast asleep, openly kissing him, said,
we must honour with our kiss, the mouth from whence so
many sweet verses have proceeded. *Peascham.*
7. Readiness at need; quickness at expedients.
A good bodily strength is a felicity of nature, but nothing
comparable to a large understanding and ready *presence* of
mind. *L'Estrange.*
Errors, not to be recall'd, do find
Their best redress from *presence* of the mind,
Courage our greatest failings does supply. *Waller.*
8. The person of a superior.
To her the sov'reign *presence* thus reply'd. *Milton.*
PRESENCE-CHAMBER, *n. f.* [*presencia* and *chamber* or *room*.]
PRESENCE-ROOM, *n. f.* [*presencia* and *chamber* or *room*.]
The room in which a great person
receives company.
If these nerves, which are the conduits to convey them
from without to their audience in the brain, the mind's *pre-*
sence-rooms, are so disordered, as not to perform their functions,
they have no pattern to be admitted by. *Locke.*
Kneller, with silence and surprise,
We see Britannia's monarch rise,
And aw'd by thy delusive hand,
As in the *presence-chamber* stand. *Addison.*
PRESENTION, *n. f.* [*presencia*, Lat.] Perception beforehand.
The hedgehog's *presencia* of winds is exact. *Brown.*
PRESENT, *adj.* [*presens*, Fr. *presens*, Lat.]
1. Not absent; being face to face; being at hand.
But neither of these are any impediment, because the re-
gent thereof is of an infinite immensity more than commensu-
rate to the extent of the world, and such as is most inti-
mately *present* with all the beings of the world. *Hale.*
Be not often *present* at feasts, not at all in dissolute com-
pany; pleasing objects steal away the heart. *Taylor.*
Much I have heard
Incredible to me, in this displeas'd,
That I was never *present* on the place
Of those encounters. *Milton's Agonistes.*
2. Not past; not future.
Thou future things can't represent
As *present*. *Milton.*
The moments past, if thou art wife, retrieve
With pleasant memory of the bliss they gave;
The *present* hours in pleasant mirth employ
And bribe the future with the hopes of joy.
The *present* age hath not been less inquisitive than the
former ages were. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*
3. Ready at hand; quick in emergencies.
If a man write little, he had need have a great memory;
if he confer little, he had need have a *present* wit; and if he
read little, he had need have much cunning. *Bacon.*
'Tis a high point of philosophy and virtue for a man to be
so *present* to himself, as to be always provided against all
accidents. *L'Estrange.*
4. Favourably attentive; not neglectful; propitious.
Be *present* to her now, as then,
And let not proud and factious men
Against your wills oppose their mights. *Benj. Johnson.*
The golden goddess, *present* at the pray'r,
Well knew he meant th' inanimated fair,
And gave the sign of granting his desire. *Dryden.*
Nor could I hope in any place but there,
To find a god so *present* to my pray'r. *Dryden.*
5. Unforgotten; not neglectful.
The ample mind keeps the several objects all within sight,
and *present* to the soul. *Watts.*
6. Not abstracted; not absent of mind; attentive.